

But however desirable it may be to obtain correctly formed tables of the expectation of life, as a means of estimating the value * of life interests in property; yet, from the continual oscillations of our population, it must be exceedingly difficult to make any correct observations as to the average rate of mortality in any of our cities or counties, or even in any of the States of our Union. 1 *Malthus Pop.* 22. The two strong ties, poverty and wealth, which prevent migrations, have been often broken by the oppressions of government in the old world; but in our country the universal parental care of the government and the equal distribution of property, lifting all above want, and dispersing, at short intervals, the great accumulations of wealth, leave it in the power of all to remove at pleasure; so that the peculiar temptations of advantage offered by the various regions of our country cause continual and most extraordinary shiftings of our population. **249**

It is admitted as regards even the comparatively stationary circumstances of the cities of Europe, that a large allowance must be made for the adult population annually poured into them from the country. 1 *Malthus Pop.* 468. But, as to the cities of this Union, the annual accession of some of them from the country has been so great as to confound all calculation. Philadelphia, perhaps, in this respect, the most stationary among them, far exceeds any one of Europe in its acquisitions from the country. *Seybert Stat. Ann.* 48. But the City of Baltimore, the great emporium of Maryland, which was but a poor village in 1776, at this time, (1831,) contains eighty thousand six hundred and twenty persons; and may be regarded as almost an entirely new aggregation from abroad within the ordinary term of human life. It would therefore be impossible, as yet, to form any correct table of the expectation of life within the City of Baltimore. *Seybert Stat. Ann.* 48; 2 *Price Obser. Essay*, 2.

The shiftings of the population of the several counties of Maryland have also been in many respects very extraordinary, and altogether dissimilar from any thing observed of any district of the country population of Europe. It appears, that, as a whole, Maryland has continued greatly to increase in population from its first settlement down to the last census, (1830;) and yet, that most of the lower counties within which the main strength of the State was found, during the Revolutionary War, have latterly diminished in their population by having large portions of it, with a considerable increase, after deducting the great mass thrown into the new regions of the West, shifted into the upper counties; great spaces of which * were, during the Revolution, almost entirely uninhabited. *Seybert Stat. Ann.* 37. And it also appears, from **250** the periodical enumerations made under the authority of the Union, that although there are, every where, a much greater number of